

Council of Elders

Record of Discussion #8

APM-REP-00676-0008

September 2014

Kathryn Shaver

Bob Watts

Jessica Perritt

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES



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Record of Discussion
NWMO Council of Elders
Club Regent Casino Hotel, Winnipeg, MB
Sept 5th, 2014

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders:

Chair: Donna Augustine

Members: Leslie Perley, Joseph Poitras, Billy Schibler, Roland St. Germain, Billy Two Rivers, Gordon Williams, Grace Manitowabi, Diane Longboat, Adolph Rasevych, George Morin, Brandon Petahtegoose, Jeff Kinew, Rayanna Seymour, Madison Levi, Shavonne Custer, Norman Stagg, Rebekah Wilson

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

NWMO:

Staff: Kathryn Shaver, Bob Watts, Ross Holden, Jessica Perritt, Devi Shantilal

The Council of Elders members met on their own for the first part of the morning.

Debrief: Grand Council Treaty #3 and NWMO Council of Elders Joint Meeting

It was noted that the joint meeting was impressive- everyone sat together, prayed together and danced together.

Kathryn Shaver noted that she was pleased to be able to exchange views with Treaty #3. She mentioned that she and Bob Watts were working together to determine how the next five years will look; noting that NWMO does not have all the answers nor does it know what are the right questions to ask. Nonetheless, she felt comfort in knowing that NWMO will find a way together by learning from indigenous knowledge. She thanked the Elders and Youth and noted that they had an opportunity to build a model to move forward together.

Elder Augustine noted that Elder Gordon Williams and she attended the first meeting with Grand Council Treaty #3 and that it was a very difficult meeting so to have them meet with NWMO Council of Elders and Youth with their Drum is significant and she felt that we are starting to build trust.

Bob Watts noted that he had discussions and had received emails from meeting participants – everyone felt honoured to be a part of the ceremonies; including Ken Nash. He felt lucky to be in attendance at the meeting and to hear views of the Elders. He noted that the Treaty #3 Elders had been very generous to all of us with their remarks.

He concluded with emphasizing the need to be cautious and consider how our actions may affect future generations. He noted that NWMO has adopted a unique way to conduct its business and acknowledged the profoundness of the meeting with Treaty #3.

Elder Augustine noted that there is a positive aspect of every negative thing. Nuclear waste is negative but has a positive aspect- it brings people together. She stated that aboriginal peoples have a connection with Mother Earth and have something to offer. She was proud of her identity.

Terms of Reference- Bob Watts

Clarification was provided on concerns raised in the past for the following topics:

- Council of Elders is not employed by NWMO. It is an advisory council and has an independent role- to provide guidance to NWMO.
- Members of the Council of Elders are not expected to represent the views of any organizations or communities- they represent themselves
- Organizations/communities do not appoint a representative to the Council of Elders- they can nominate persons for consideration by the President and CEO of NWMO.
- It was noted that nominees are generally nominated because they are looked upon by the community as having wisdom and are well respected.
- Council of Elders meetings are not secretive- NWMO posts a record of discussions on its website. There is no expectation of confidentiality/secrecy.
- It was important for NWMO to ensure that the members Council of Elders are not put in a position of vulnerability by being targeted by others.

Other Discussions- Bob Watts

- Bob Watts requested the Council to review the summary of discussion for the April 15-17, 2014 meeting and provide their feedback.
- Advice was sought from the council with regards to having guests at Council of Elders meetings. This topic was discussed at length and several participants noted that guests were welcome to their meetings since that would help erase suspicion and ties into the principle of transparency. It was also noted that from a planning perspective, the Council of Elders should decide whether they would like a separate meeting followed by a meeting with guests and also whether guests were expected to participate or observe the meeting. This is to be further discussed at future meetings.
- It was noted that NWMO may receive requests from other nations to have a meeting with the Council of Elders. The Council decided that this needs to be discussed at the next Council of Elders meeting.
- It was noted that the Council of Elders is not accountable to NWMO nor the organizations that nominated them to be a member of the Council of Elders rather, they are accountable to Mother Earth as indicated in their mission statement.
- Another participant noted that the Council of Elders would like some sort of feedback mechanism for meetings to which Elders are invited to participate; stating it was important to get the Elders perspectives of that experience.
- A proposal to include information about the Council of Elders in the “who we are” backgrounder or a separate brochure was put forward. This is to be discussed further during future meetings.
- Other organizations may wish to have representatives at the Council of Elders too; the Council of Elders is not formed of representatives as outlined in the Terms of Reference. It was

acknowledged that the Council of Elders does not become politically charged a participant noted that the Traditional Knowledge Policy should be finalized.

- Bob Watts noted that discussions were on-going with for a tour of mine site, tailings pond and uranium refinery. He committed to reporting back on the progress during the next meeting with Council of Elders.
- Bob Watts noted that Tom Isaac has been approached to come to Canada again when convenient for him.
- Jessica Perritt proposed Nov 19-21 as potential meeting dates and requested the Council of Elders to check their schedules and inform her if those dates were suitable. The location of the next meeting was not determined.
- A teleconference was proposed for discussion of potential meeting dates and locations.
- Youth noted that they would like a Youth meeting to discuss and come up with new perspectives and put forward some recommendations.

The meeting was then adjourned for the day.

Closing Ceremony

The meeting was concluded with prayers for Elder Gordon Williams' ailing sister and a friendship song by Elder Donna Augustine.

Next Steps

- NWMO to host a teleconference to set-up the next meeting
- Possible agenda items for next meeting:
 - To get Council of Elders preference on:
 - Requests for attendance at Council of Elders Meeting
 - Requests/ Invitations to meet with Council of Elders
 - Traditional Knowledge Policy Review and finalization
 - Discussion regarding recommendations by Elder Diane Longboat during Sept 3-4 meeting to establish working groups of Elders for:
 - Report on Council of Elders – Evolution and Milestone noting Integration of advice by NWMO
 - Report about principles and values that would protect the Rights of Mother Earth
 - Council of Elders Strategic Plan for moving forward
 - Progress on potential mine site tour
 - Discuss requests to have more Elders on the Council
 - Discussion regarding amending terms of Reference of Council of Elders to accommodate new members
 - Review of record of discussion Sept 3-4 and Sept 5 meetings

- Discussion Re: Brochure for Council of Elders